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BOROUGH of DORCHESTER

Statement on Public Health for the year 1947.

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Dorchester.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES. Summary. The following cases (including non-civilians) were notified:- Dysentery 1, Erysipelas 1, Malaria (recurrent)1, Measles 84, Meningitus (Cerebro-spinal) 3, Pneumonia (Acute primary) 5, Puerperal pyrexia 3, Scarlet Fever 4, Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) 9, Tuberculosis (other forms) 2, Whooping Cough 1.

MEASLES. These cases occurred in all parts of the Borough, the first case being notified at the Dorset County Hospital. They extended over February, March & April and were almost confined to those months.

MENINGITIS. One case was a non-civilian and was treated at Bovington Military Hospital. The civilian cases were both treated in hospital.

PNEUMONIA. None of these cases were moved to hospital; all recovered.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA. All 3 cases occurred in and were treated at the Dorset County Hospital.

SCARLET FEVER. One was a non-civilian case. The other 3 cases were civilians and were all isolated in hospital.

TUBERCULOSIS All the cases were civilians. Three other previously notified cases came into this borough from other districts.

SCABIES. Five cases were treated at the Weymouth Cleansing Station.

IMMUNISATION. against Diphtheria. Clinics for the Immunisation of children of under school age are held at monthly intervals by the Dorset County Council, at the Clinic Glyde Path Road.
122 children under five years of age and 4 children over five years of age were immunised for the first time. 140 children who had previously been immunised were given re-inforcing treatment.
"Wellcome" Diphtheria Prophylactic, Alum Precipitated Toxoid, was used in doses of 0.3c.c. and 0.5c.c. with four weeks interval.

MEAT INSPECTION

Certain premises in the Borough are still being used as Government Slaughter-houses by the Ministry of Food, and slaughtering takes place locally for the distribution of meat to the following areas:-

Dorchester Borough, Dorchester Rural District, Portland, Swanage, Wareham Borough, Wareham Rural District and Weymouth.

Assistance in the work of meat inspection has been given throughout the year by Inspectors from all but Wareham Rural District and their help is much appreciated. A Government Slaughter-house is established in the excepted area, and for this reason no local help has been requested.

During the year 425 visits have been paid to the Slaughter-houses and 17,559 animal carcases have been examined, as follows :-

	Bovines	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Goats	Total
By Dorchester Borough Inspector	1608	5611	4321	131	88	11,759
By Other Inspectors	2507	1180	2020	61	32	5,800
	4115	6791	6341	192	120	17,559

The undermentioned quantities of meat and offal have been found to be unfit for human food and consequently condemned:-

	Beef	Mutton	Pork	Veal	Goat-flesh	Offal	Total
By Dorchester Boro' Inspector	27,809	659	237	755	87	22,940	52,487
By Other Inspectors	18,140	126	158	190	--	26,446	45,060
	45,949	785	395	945	87	49,386	97,547

36 Tons 8 cwt. 3 qrs. 27 lbs. was condemned owing to tuberculosis; 7 Tons 1 cwt. 3 qrs. 24 lbs. was unfit owing to various other diseases.

ANIMAL CARCASES EXAMINED - 1947
by Dorchester Borough Inspector

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cattle Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed					
Number inspected	624	984	5611	4321	131
All diseases except T.B. Whole carcases condemned.	--	9	9	10	--
	--	0.91%	0.16%	0.23%	--
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	79	190	64	398	23
	12.66%	19.30%	1.14%	9.21%	17.55%
Tuberculosis only Whole carcases condemned	8	21	2	--	2
	1.28%	2.13%	0.03%	--	1.52%
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	88	287	9	--	2
	14.10%	29.16%	0.16%	--	1.52%

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Two licences to slaughter animals under the above-named Act have been issued during the year.

Unsound Food

Additional food, as set out below, was found to be unsound and unfit for human food and was, therefore, condemned and destroyed or

used for salvage purposes where possible:-

		Milk	-	1020 Tins.	
Bacon	-	17 lbs.		Fruit	- 464 lbs.
Butter	-	89 "		Meat	- 4024 "
Cheese	-	14 "		Oatmeal	- 140 "
Crumpets	-	9 "		Vegetables	-2446 "
Fish	-	1765 "		Wheat Flakes	-77 "

Total weight : 9045 lbs. or 4 Tons 0 cwt. 3 qrs. 1 lb.

Milk.

During the year 23 samples of milk as supplied to householders were taken; 16 of these satisfactorily passed the appropriate tests, but 7 failed to do so.

In addition to the above, 25 samples of milk supplied to schools were taken for submission to a bacteriologist. Such milk is "heat-treated"; 13 of them satisfactorily passed the tests and 12 failed. Included in the latter figure were 9 samples taken on one particular day; they, however, were found to have been subjected to no heat treatment, and on enquiry it was discovered that the plant at the factory from which the milk was supplied had broken down owing to the heavy frosts, in consequence of which "raw" milk had been delivered. The plant in question was put into order a week later.

The reports on all the samples taken have been submitted to the appropriate Committee who then gave instructions as to the action to be taken.

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, the following licences were granted by the Council:-

2 - For bottling Tuberculin Tested Milk.
1 - Supplementary Licence for Pasteurised Milk.

WATER. This is piped to the area from a well in the chalk, and has been quite satisfactory both as regards quality and quantity:

89 Samples have been taken during the year and submitted to bacteriological examination. There were no unsatisfactory samples. All were taken after chloramination, half of them being taken at the waterworks and the remainder at various points in the borough.

No chemical analysis was carried out during the year. The water is hard in character but much softened on boiling.

The water is not subject to plumbo-solvent action.

Almost the entire population is supplied from the public mains.

About 100 houses are supplied by taps outside the building.

House Drainage

All new drainage work in connection with both Old and New Buildings has been supervised, examined and tested, and for this purpose 68 visits have been paid to various premises within the Borough.

House Repairs

During the year 135 houses were inspected, of which 108 were found to be unfit for human habitation in certain respects, which resulted in the service of 108 informal notices, followed in 71 instances by formal notices under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936.

In 25 cases the requisite work has not yet been carried out.

Infectious Illness

15 rooms have been disinfected during the year and in 5 cases the infected bedding etc., has been removed for Steam disinfection; 55 articles have been so treated during the year.

The boiler of the plant at our own Isolation Hospital broke down during the year, making steam disinfection impossible, following which the Dorchester Council made an arrangement with the Weymouth Authority by which any local bedding needing disinfection could be forwarded for treatment in their Disinfector.

12 Notices were issued to school Superintendents concerning the exclusion or re-admission of scholars.

Summary of Complaints Received

Defective condition of houses	....	37
House drainage	....	15
Overcrowding	....	3
Foul accumulations	....	3
Animals kept in insanitary conditions	----	3
Rat or Mouse Infestations	....	5
Miscellaneous	....	15
		81

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928.

During the year 48 licences for the keeping of Petroleum Spirit were issued together with 2 licences for the storage of Carbide of Calcium.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938 (Ice Cream)

During the year 2 premises were registered for the sale of Ice Cream.

FACTORIES ACT 1937.

	No. on Register	Re-No. of Inspections	No. of written Notices	No. of Occupiers prosecuted
Factories (in which Sections 1-4 & 6 are enforced)	106	43	3	Nil

Defects found:-	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M.Inspector	Referred by H.M.Inspector
Want of cleanliness	3	3		1
Inadequate Ventilation			1	
Sanitary Conveniences (unsuitable or defective)	1	1		1

Outworkers 2

C.D. DAY,
Medical Officer of Health
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